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A Publication of Communication Channels, Inc.

MAY 1984

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

administration • engineering • operations

Telecommunications Wired for the Future

Is There Gold in Garbage?

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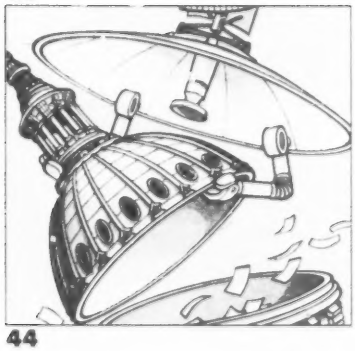

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The wire on these rolls is becoming obsolete as the technology of the telecommunications industry leap-frogs to satellites, microwave transmission and fiber optics. Story on page 38.

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** rose 0.3 percent for the month to 328.9. The rise in the index was sparked by a 0.4 percent increase in the **Consumer Price Index**, along with 0.2 percent increases in both the **Producer Price Index** and the **ACC Construction Cost Index**.

New construction starts in the highway, bridge and non-building markets should begin to improve with the release of federal construction funds. Also, economic growth should be spurred by the recent drop in interest rates — yielding lower costs for local governments.

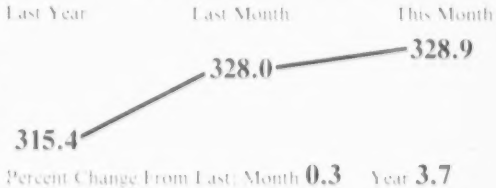
Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	143.6	0	1.2
Apparel	199.8	0.6	2.5
Asphalt Roofing	390.4	2.4	2.6
Books	125.2	0.9	5.3
Chemicals, Industrial	338.0	−2.8	−0.6
Coal	543.4	0.4	1.9
Concrete Products	306.4	0.3	2.1
Construction Machinery	355.9	0.5	1.9
Diesel Fuel	709.5	2.9	−4.9
Electric Components	190.1	0.7	5.6
Electric Lamps	332.3	−1.5	8.8
Electric Power	424.4	0.8	3.3
Engines, I.C.	344.3	0	2.2
Fans, Blowers	341.2	1.1	1.2
Fertilizers, Mixed	269.0	2.5	3.3
Floor Coverings	187.7	−0.7	3.1
Flow Instruments	100.6	0	N/A
Footwear	251.6	0	1.6
Foundry Products	357.1	0.8	2.9
Fuel Oil No. 2	767.5	8.2	2.6
Furniture, Commercial	293.9	1.1	4.1
Gasoline	563.9	−1.1	−6.4
Generator Sets	337.7	0.1	4.5
Glass	230.0	−0.2	0.1
Glass Containers	350.9	0	−1.4
Gypsum Products	339.4	3.3	26.9
Hardware	292.9	0.1	1.7
Heating Equipment	248.4	0.4	3.2
HVAC Controls	121.5	0.2	−2.3
LP Gas	671.5	−0.9	−5.2
Lubricants	368.0	−0.8	4.0
Lumber	365.4	3.9	N/A
Metal Fabrications	306.9	−0.1	1.4
Millwork	308.5	0	2.7
Motor Vehicle Parts	352.8	−0.1	0.1
Mowers	256.8	0.7	3.5
Natural Gas	1413.6	−0.1	−1.9
Office Machines	154.3	−1.0	0.3
Paint	266.9	0.5	0.8
Paper	296.6	0.8	6.4
Passenger Cars	221.9	0	2.5
Plumbing Fixtures	296.9	1.0	4.7
Plywood	249.5	0.5	4.2
Portland Cement	347.0	5.3	4.4
Pumps	346.3	0.1	−1.0
Residual Fuel	1093.1	−6.2	5.7
Sand, Gravel	291.7	0.7	3.4
Sanitary Papers	360.3	0.2	−1.3
Soaps, Detergents	267.8	0.8	3.5
Sporting Goods	206.7	0	0.5
Steel Mill Products	363.5	0.2	3.5
Struc. Clay Products	283.0	−0.2	7.1
Switchgear	272.4	1.3	−0.2
Tires, Tubes	243.0	0	−3.0
Transformers	219.9	−1.6	−1.6
Trucks	326.9	0.7	3.0
Valves	100.4	0.2	−0.4
Wire, Cable	201.8	0	−1.7
Wiring Devices	346.3	1.0	4.9

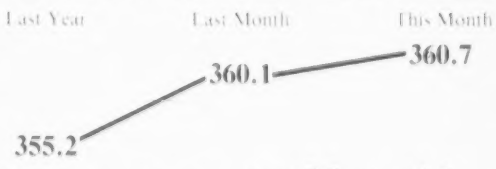
At-A-Glance Changes

ACC MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



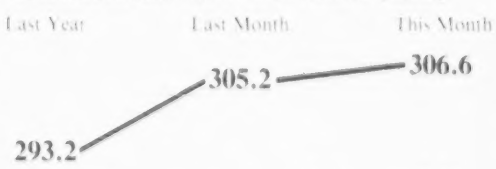
Percent Change From Last: Month 0.3 Year 3.7

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



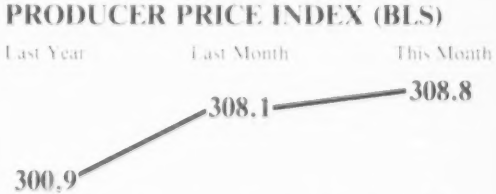
Percent Change From Last: Month 0.2 Year 1.6

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month 0.4 Year 4.6

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month 0.2 Year 2.6

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	492.7B	2.9	11.3
Federal Grants	86.5B	−0.8	1.8
Durable Purchases	14.7B	1.3	7.3
Consumables	33.3B	2.5	5.4
Services	337.5B	1.8	7.6
Structures	40.5B	−3.1	−2.4
Salaries, Wages	246.9B	1.8	7.6
Surplus	55.5B	7.4	77.3
Employment	13.019M	0.4	−0.1